

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting unauthorized signal usage in a content delivery network, **the method** comprising the steps of:

acquiring at least two signal usage records for a receiver of said content, **each signal usage record having indicia of actual usage associated therewith;**

evaluating **the respective indicia of actual usage for** said at least two signal usage records **for against a predetermined combination of** indicia of usage **of that are associated with** a combination of signals not **normally**-authorized **for usage together** on said receiver; and

detecting unauthorized signal usage upon said **respective actual usage indicia for said** at least two signal usage records being consistent with said **indiciapredetermined combination of indicia, regardless of whether each instance of signal usage associated with the at least two actual signal usage records have been previously individually authorized for usage with said receiver.**

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said **predetermined combination of** indicia **includeof usage includes** use at said receiver of at least two signals each of which is only normally authorized for use in mutually distinct geographic locations.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~usage of each said at least two signals~~ **said predetermined combination of indicia of usage** is associated with ~~a geographic blackout region~~ **regions**, wherein geographic locations in which usage is ~~normally~~ authorized for any one **signal** of said ~~at least two~~ **combination of** signals by reference to its respective blackout region is exclusive from geographic locations in which usage

is ~~normally~~ authorized for any one other of said ~~at least two~~ geographic blackout regions associated with every other signal of said ~~at least two~~ combination of signals.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of disabling said receiver upon detecting unauthorized signal usage at said receiver.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the steps of acquiring at least two signal usage records, evaluating the respective indicia of actual usage of said at least two usage signal records, detecting unauthorized signal usage and disabling said receiver is performed at a different time than in immediate succession to each other of the said steps.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the steps of acquiring at least two signal usage records, evaluating the respective indicia of actual usage of said at least two usage records, detecting unauthorized signal usage and disabling said receiver are performed by said receiver.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said content delivery network includes a conditional access system in communication with said receiver, and the steps of acquiring at least two signal usage records, evaluating the respective indicia of actual usage of said at least two signal usage records, detecting unauthorized signal usage and disabling said receiver are performed by said conditional access system.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said content delivery network includes a conditional access system in communication with said receiver, and said receiver performs at least one of the steps of acquiring at least two signal usage records, evaluating the respective indicia of actual usage of said at least two signal usage

records, detecting unauthorized signal usage and disabling said receiver, and the conditional access system performs a said step other than the said at least one of the steps.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said receiver is associated with an interactive television system.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the said steps of evaluating **the respective indicia of actual usage of** said at least two signal usage records and detecting unauthorized signal usage are performed by at least one of said receiver, an advertising management system, a blackout control subsystem, a conditional access system, a multiplexer, and a parental control system, in each case being connected to said content delivery network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said **predetermined combination of** indicia ~~include~~**of usage includes** indicia of concurrent usage of two or more pay-per-usage signals.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said indicia of concurrent usage of two or more pay-per-usage signals include indicia of usage of said two or more pay-per-usage signals within a predetermined period of time.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said indicia of concurrent usage of said two or more pay-per-usage signals include indicia of picture-in-picture presentation of at least two of said two or more pay-per-usage signals.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said indicia of concurrent usage of said two or more pay-per-usage signals include indicia of recording of at least one of said two or more pay-per-usage signals while another of said two or more pay-per-usage signal is being used.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said indicia of concurrent usage of said two or more pay-per-usage signals include indicia of multi-channel presentation of said two or more pay-per-usage signals.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said indicia of multi-channel presentation include presentation of said two or more pay-per-usage signals in an electronic program guide.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of disabling said receiver in said content delivery network upon detecting unauthorized signal usage at said receiver.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the said steps of acquiring at least two signal usage records, evaluating the respective indicia of actual usage of said at least two signal usage records, detecting unauthorized signal usage and disabling said receiver is performed at a different time than in immediate succession to each other of the said steps.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said steps of acquiring at least two signal usage records, evaluating the respective indicia of actual usage of said at least two signal usage records, detecting unauthorized signal usage and disabling said receiver are performed by said receiver.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said content delivery network includes a conditional access system in communication with said receiver, and said steps of acquiring at least two signal usage records, evaluating the respective indicia of actual usage of said at least two signal usage records, detecting said unauthorized signal usage and disabling said receiver are performed by said conditional access system.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said content delivery network includes a conditional access system in communication with said receiver, and said receiver performs at least one of said steps of acquiring at least two signal usage records, evaluating **the respective indicia of actual usage of** said at least two signal usage records, detecting unauthorized signal usage and disabling said receiver, and the conditional access system performs a said step other than the said at least one of said steps.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said receiver is associated with an interactive television system.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the said step of evaluating **the respective indicia of actual usage of** said at least two signal usage records and detecting unauthorized signal usage are performed by at least one of said receiver, an advertising management system, a blackout control subsystem, a conditional access system, a multiplexer, and a parental control system, in each case being connected to said content delivery network.

24. – 33. (Canceled)

34. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein said receiver is associated with an interactive television system.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising acquiring a geographic indicia for said receiver to identify a geographic location associated with the receiver, and wherein said **predetermined combination of** indicia of usage include at least two of:

use at said receiver of at least two signals each of which is only normally authorized for use in mutually distinct geographic locations;

use at said receiver of a signal not normally authorized for usage in the geographic location associated with said receiver; and

concurrent usage of two or more pay-per-usage signals.

37. (Currently Amended) A system for detecting unauthorized signal usage in a content delivery network, comprising:

a processor; and

a computer-readable storage medium in communication with the processor, the computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable instructions thereon, the computer-readable instructions including instructions executable by the processor for:

a record-acquisition module for acquiring at least two signal usage records for a receiver of said content, each signal usage record having indicia of actual usage associated therewith;

a data-set evaluating the respective indicia of actual usage for said at least two signal usage records against a predetermined combination of indicia of usage of that are associated with a combination of signals not normally-authorized for usage together on said receiver; and

an evaluation module for evaluating said at least two signal usage records against said indicia, wherein detecting unauthorized signal usage is detected upon said respective actual usage indicia for said at least two signal usage records being consistent with said indicia predetermined combination of indicia, regardless of whether each instance of signal usage associated with the at least two actual signal usage records have been previously individually authorized for usage with said receiver.

38. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 37, wherein the computer-readable instructions further comprising a

~~disabling module for~~include instructions executable by the processor for disabling said receiver upon detecting unauthorized signal usage at said receiver.

39. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 38, wherein the said steps of record acquisition ~~module~~, and evaluation ~~module~~ and disabling ~~module~~ each executes at a different time than in immediate succession to each other.

40. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 39, wherein said predetermined combination of indicia of usage are maintained in a data set, and wherein the said steps of record acquisition ~~module~~, ~~data set of indicia~~, evaluation ~~module~~, and disabling ~~module~~, ad said data set, are associated with at least one network element in said content delivery network.

41. (Original) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 40, wherein one of said at least one network element is any one of said receiver, an advertising management system, a blackout control system, a conditional access system, a multiplexer and a parental control system.

42. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 41, wherein said predetermined combination indicia of usage include use at said receiver of at least two signals each of which is only normally authorized for use in mutually distinct geographic locations.

43. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 42, wherein each instance of signal usage ~~of each said~~associated with the at least two ~~signals~~actual signal usage records is associated with a geographic blackout region, wherein geographic locations in which usage is normally authorized for any one signal of said at least two ~~signals~~actual signal usage records by reference to its respective blackout region is

distinct from geographic locations in which usage is normally authorized for any one other of said at least two geographic blackout regions associated with every other signal of said at least two ~~signals~~ actual signal usage records.

44. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 41, wherein said predetermined combination of indicia of usage include concurrent usage of two or more pay-per-usage signals.

45. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 44, wherein said predetermined combination of indicia of concurrent usage of two or more pay-per-use signals include indicia of usage of said two or more pay-per-usage signals within a predetermined period of time.

46. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 44, wherein said predetermined combination of indicia of concurrent usage of said two or more pay-per-usage signals include indicia of picture-in-picture presentation of at least two of said two or more pay-per-usage signals.

47. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 44, wherein said predetermined combination of indicia of concurrent usage of said two or more pay-per-usage signals include indicia of recording of at least one of said two or more pay-per-usage signals while another of said two or more pay-per-usage ~~signals~~ signals is being used.

48. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 44, wherein said predetermined combination of indicia of concurrent usage of said two or more pay-per-usage signals include indicia of multi-channel presentation of said two or more pay-per-usage signals.



49. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 44, wherein said **predetermined combination of** indicia of multi-channel presentation include presentation of said two or more pay-per-usage signals in an electronic program guide.

50. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 41, wherein said ~~acquisition module~~**step of acquiring** further ~~acquires~~**includes** **acquiring** a geographic indicia for said receiver to identify a geographic location associated with said receiver, and said **predetermined combination of** indicia ~~include~~**of usage includes** indicia of usage of a signal not normally authorized for usage in the geographic location of said receiver.

51. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 50, wherein said indicia of usage of ~~said at least one~~**a** signal not normally authorized on said receiver include indicia of usage corresponding to a signal controlled by a geographic blackout region which does not normally permit usage of the signal in the geographic location of said receiver.

52. (Original) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 50, wherein said geographic indicia comprise data associated with the time zone of the said geographic location.

53. (Original) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 50, wherein said geographic indicia comprise data associated with a global positioning system.

54. (Original) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 50, wherein said geographic indicia comprise data associated with the postal code of the said geographic location.

55. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling unauthorized signal usage of claim 41, wherein said step of acquisition ~~module~~ further ~~acquires~~ includes acquiring a geographic indicia associated with said receiver, and said geographic indicia include at least two of:

use at said receiver of at least two signals each of which is only normally authorized for use in mutually distinct geographic locations;

use at said receiver of a signal not normally authorized for usage in the geographic location associated with said receiver; and

concurrent usage of two or more pay-per-usage signals.

56. (New) A system for detecting unauthorized signal usage in a content delivery network, the system comprising:

a processor, wherein the processor is configured to:

acquire at least two signal usage records for a receiver of said content, each signal usage record having indicia of actual usage associated therewith;

evaluate the respective indicia of actual usage for said at least two signal usage records against a predetermined combination of indicia of usage that are associated with a combination of signals not authorized for usage together on said receiver; and

detect unauthorized signal usage upon said respective actual usage indicia for said at least two signal usage records being consistent with said predetermined combination of indicia, regardless of whether each instance of signal usage associated with the at least two actual signal usage records have been previously individually authorized for usage with said receiver.